Journal 1

We met with our cooperating teacher on a Thursday morning two weeks ago. My first impressions of her were that she seemed very young, but quite experienced. She told us that this was her third year teaching which surprised me because she really seemed to know exactly what she was doing. Obviously in our initial meeting we didn’t get to see her teach but she just gave off this persona of being completely comfortable in all that she does and being really knowledgeable about her students and content area. I immediately felt like I could learn a lot from Ms. Erica Kennedy.

As far as information we received for our field experience she took around the Dakota Meadows Media Center to show us the projects that her class had just finished for their previous unit. They looked so good that I felt a little intimidated. These kids put together excellent 3D models of something that they thought represented what they learned about Mesopotamia. A lot of adults, including myself sometimes underestimate the capabilities of children, and in that tour of their projects I definitely realized that I would be working with kids whose skill levels were beyond what I had expected. This both excited me and made me nervous. I really want to help these kids learn and I felt like they already knew so much and that Ms. Kennedy could obviously connect with these kids and help them get excited enough about learning that they created such beautiful projects, and I wondered if what I would be able to measure up. All of these thoughts and emotions came from a quick two minute walk around the media center and then she took us back to her classroom to show us more from what she had done in the previous unit. She gave us the packet she used for the project as well as two copies of the textbook that she uses. She gave us her email address to use to contact her.

I feel as though we should have been a little more proactive and asked for the materials for her next unit so we had plenty of time to read over everything before we actually got in the classroom. The first day that we got into the classroom, we wanted to just observe her so we could see what the classroom environment was like and what her teaching style looked like. It turned out that the first day of the unit was just a work day where the students filled out a worksheet that went along with the chapter. Our role this day was basically to help students if they had questions but we didn’t really get to observe her teaching and we weren’t given the worksheet beforehand. However I felt that the first day went really well. I am really excited for the rest of our experience.